



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-6887  
3 April 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - March 1986

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Perhaps mirroring the variable early spring weather, events in the Korea during March seemed to contain a little something for everyone. In the South, while the main operations of the yearly "Team Spirit" exercises entered their final stages, domestic politics continued along a confrontational and difficult course. The opposition NKDP held large rallies in Pusan and Kwangju on the 23d and 30th to further their campaign for revision of the constitution before presidential elections are held in 1988. The crowds were large at both rallies -- about 10,000 in Pusan and probably more than 50,000 in Kwangju -- and generally peaceful. A third rally is scheduled for Taegu on 6 April, and the NKDP is so pleased at the turnouts at the first two that it is thinking of holding a similar extravaganza in Seoul later in April. The NKDP and the opposition in general received a boost when Cardinal Kim Su-hwan, head of the Catholic Church in Korea who appears to be trying to emulate Cardinal Sin in Manila as a voice of opposition politics, fully supported the constitution revision drive and defended the NKDP's right to petition for such a revision. Opposition leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Young-sam were in the front row of the Seoul cathedral when the cardinal delivered his hard-hitting sermon. On the government side, Defense Minister Yi Ki-paek held a press conference -- a very unusual occurrence for a cabinet minister -- on 20 March devoted to the military threat from the North and the responsibility of ROK citizens to remain vigilant. The following day Minister of Culture and Information Yi Won-hong issued a statement denouncing the North's escalated propaganda offensive against the South. The Bureau filed a considerable amount of reportage and comment on the current political scene, raising the threshold somewhat on selection of material from the ROK vernacular press.

2. The media "sensation" of the month was the defection -- or redefection -- to the U.S. Embassy in Vienna of former South Korean film director Sin Sang-ok and his wife, former actress Choe Un-ki. Choe apparently defected to the DPRK in 1978 while in Hong Kong, and 6 months later Sin, who was in Hong Kong searching for her, also disappeared. ROK media have always maintained that the couple was kidnapped. For several days following the redefection the media was filled with reportage on their initial disappearance, their past activities and prominence in the South, the angry demonstrations here when they were "kidnapped," and so forth. Pyongyang media have not reported their defection to domestic audiences, though KCNA reports on the affair were transmitted for international audiences.

3. Bureau editors devoted much attention during the month to the DPRK's unusual propaganda campaign opposing the annual "Team Spirit" military exercise. Unlike last year, when Pyongyang radio carried what seemed to be a continuous barrage of denunciations, this year there have been brief interludes when one would hardly have realized the huge exercises were underway by reading Pyongyang radio program summaries. Part of the North's propaganda attention shifted to attacking ROK political repression, particularly in comparing President Chon with Marcos and equating the political situations in the two countries. The North also beefed up its campaign for cohosting the 1988 Olympics and rejecting Seoul as an acceptable site, including the charge that athletes participating in the Games will inevitably contract AIDS from the city's "400,000 prostitutes".

4. Cuba's Fidel Castro paid his first visit to the DPRK in early March, and SFRY President Vojakovic paid an official visit at month's end. The Castro visit in particular generated a large amount of copy, and Embassy officers requested extra copies of speeches by Castro and Kim Il-song in which the two discussed the Olympics.

5. On the 30th the Bureau began taping selected news and commentary programs from Seoul television at MOD request. This project will last 30 days, after which Seoul may be added to the "Cities" videotaping project.

#### B. Lateral Services

U.S. Secretary of Energy John Herrington was in Seoul from 8-11 March. At the request of members of the secretary's advance team, the Bureau provided copies of all locally monitored reportage on the visit to the secretary.

## II. ADMINISTRATION

### Personnel

During an Embassy awards ceremony held on 12 March, Ambassador Walker presented Senior Communications Operator [redacted] with a certificate marking 10 years of Federal Government Employment. [redacted] began working for the Embassy in 1975, and transferred to FBIS in 1979.

STAT  
STAT

### III. VISITS

David Lambertson arrived in Seoul and assumed duties as Deputy Chief of Mission on 1 March. He was given an orientation briefing and tour of the Bureau on the 13th.

### IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Deputy Chief [ ] wife [ ] was elected to serve on the U.S. Embassy Association Board of Governors for the year beginning 1 March. The Board oversees the operation of the Embassy Club, three cafeterias, and a commissary.

STAT

STAT

[ ]  
Chief, Seoul Bureau

#### Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau  
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

## Seoul Bureau Production Report for March 1986

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	622480
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	152940
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1489

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13265.00 min.	5510.00 min.	104.46 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
(publishable words per month)

## CHINA

Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	0	
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	1220	
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	14030	
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	12630	
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	15550	
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	13420	
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	14780	
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	6200	
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	2490	
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese		10320
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese		6700
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese		7050
Hohhot NEINENGGU RIBAO in Chinese		0
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese		300
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese		8570
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese		13900

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
-----------------	-------------------	-------------------

Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese		14800
-------------------------------------	--	-------

CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	30850	
--	-------	--

KOREA (NORTH)		
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	177720	
Pyongyang Domestic Television Service in Korean	0	
Pyongyang KCNA in English		130250
Pyongyang Editorial Report on DPRK korean		900
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean		0
Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean		1600

KOREA (SOUTH)		
Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	6800	
Seoul YONHAP in English		32070
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean		4350
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean		850
Seoul Editorial Report on ROK Media korean		7700
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean		3300
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean		5900
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean		3700
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean		0
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English		24170
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English		34610
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean		9000

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS Moscow International Service in Korean	6750	
--	------	--